

SUBJECT: Authorizing inspection stations to set fees for certain vehicle inspections

COMMITTEE: Homeland Security & Public Safety — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 5 ayes — Guillen, Bowers, Dorazio, Holland, Troxclair

2 nays — Jarvis Johnson, Harless

2 absent — Canales, Goodwin

WITNESSES: For — Robert Hogan, Hogan’s Jif-E Lube 2 (*Registered, but did not testify*; Mike Sullivan, Group 1 Automotive; Annie Spilman, NFIB; Mark Borskey, Texas Recreational Vehicle Association; Brandi Bird, Texas State Inspection Association)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Ray Hunt, Houston Police Officers’ Union)

On — Pablo Luna, Texas Dept. of Public Safety

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that vehicle inspection stations should be able to charge their own inspection rates to account for rising costs, inflation, and labor shortages.

DIGEST: HB 3505 would allow vehicle inspection stations to set the fee that could be charged for a general inspection or an initial two-year inspection of a passenger car or light truck. The Department of Public Safety could not adopt rules that prohibited an inspection station from refusing to inspect a vehicle.

The bill would specify that the payment remitted to the state for an inspection would be determined by each inspection performed rather than by each fee charged.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.